

INCOMING TELEGRAM

E35 ~~SECRET~~
Department of State

ACTION COPY

PERMANENT RECORD COPY

45

Action

EUR

Info

FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 701, AUGUST 16, 1961

ACT ON DEPARTMENT 701, INFORMATION PARIS 142, BONN 43, BERLIN 17, MOSCOW 28.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY USRO AND STOESSEL

DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 747

IN CONSIDERING WHAT ACTION WE SHOULD TAKE IN PRESENT BERLIN CRISIS, I FEEL WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE AS FUNDAMENTAL POINT THAT WHILE GDR BEHAVIOR IS BRUTAL, INFLAMMATORY, AND IN VIOLATION OF BERLIN AGREEMENTS, IT HAS NOT YET VITALLY AFFECTED WEST'S POSITION IN BERLIN OR SECURITY OF WEST BERLINERS. AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED, IT MAY BE IN NATURE OF PROBE OF WEST'S WILL AND NERVE, AND IF NOT VIGOROUSLY COUNTERED, COULD LEAD TO FURTHER ENCROACHMENTS. I TEND, HOWEVER, TO SHARE AMBASSADOR DOWLING'S VIEW THAT PRINCIPAL MOTIVE FOR GDR ACTION WAS DESIRE TO STEM REFUGEE FLOW, AND DOUBT IF OTHER MOVES AGAINST ACCESS ARE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

IF THIS ANALYSIS IS CORRECT, I FEEL WE SHOULD RESIST PRESSURES FOR EXTREME COUNTERMEASURES AS DEMONSTRATION OF SYMPATHY FOR PLIGHT OF EAST GERMANS. WE CAN SHOW SYMPATHY IN OTHER WAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH VIGOROUS PROTESTS AND FULLEST PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION OF THE INHUMANITY AND ILLEGALITY OF SOVBLOC ACTIONS.

WHILE WE MUST NOT BY OUR ACTIONS ENCOURAGE SOVIETS TO DOUBT OUR FIRMNESS OF PURPOSE OR GERMANS TO DESPAIR OF IT, WE

CONFIDENTIAL

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY
PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

• This copy must be returned to RM/R central files with notation of action taken •

ACTION ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE OF ACTION		

REVIEWED BY HEH Date 8/21/90
FOI, EO or PA exceptions
TS authority to: OADR
() CLASSIFY as
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
X DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE
() DENY
() Non-responsive info.

752.00/8-1561

CLASSIFIED FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

101, AUGUST 16, 4 PM FROM LONDON

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO EXPEND OUR MEAGER STORE OF
INTERMEASURES PREMATURELY, NOR SHOULD WE TAKE STEPS
WE MIGHT BRING ABOUT REPRISALS AGAINST OUR ACCESS
ENCOURAGE A POPULAR REVOLT -- DEVELOPMENTS WHICH I
WISH WERE IN OUR INTEREST TO AVOID.

LOOKING AT THE MEASURES MENTIONED IN DEPTTEL 747 WITH THIS
FRAMEWORK, I FEEL THAT MOST ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO PRESENT
SITUATION. THEY ARE EITHER TOO EXTREME (E.G. TRADE EMBARGO),
NOT SUFFICIENTLY RELEVANT (E.G. SCRAPPING OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES
AND US-SOV AIR AGREEMENT), LIKELY TO EVOKE UNDESIRABLE
COUNTER-ACTION (E.G. TTD BAN) OR INCAPABLE OF BEING APPLIED
UNIVERSALLY (E.G. LEIPZIG FAIR BOYCOTT, BAN ON WESTERN
TRAVEL TO GDR).

A WESTERN INITIATIVE CONFINED TO PROTEST WILL NOT OF
COURSE SATISFY THOSE WHO CLAMOR FOR BOLDER ACTION.
PROTEST DEVICE IS NOW ADMITTEDLY A SERIOUSLY DEPRECIATED
CURRENCY IN CONVINCING PUBLIC AND OTHER SIDE OF SERIOUSNESS
OF WESTERN PURPOSE. IF, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD FOCUS SPOTLIGHT
ON INHUMANITY OF SOVBLOC ACTION, EFFECT GENERALLY,
AND PARTICULARLY ON UNCOMMITTED AREAS, MAY WELL BE
CONSIDERABLE. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLES OF
AFRICA ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA WOULD NOT BE MOVED BY
SPECTACLE OF EAST BERLINERS BEING PENNED IN BY RING OF
TANKS AND ARMED SENTRIES.

IN SUM I THINK THIS IS THE TIME FOR VIGOROUS WESTERN
PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY IN ADVANCE OF THE CONVOCATION OF A
FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

BRUCE

HC/23

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED